
**Totley All Saints
Church of England Primary School**

Collective Worship Policy



*“I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full.”*

John 10:10

Reviewed: Autumn 2020

Approved by Governors: Spring 2021

Date of next review: Spring 2023

Collective Worship



Policy

Context and Philosophy:

At Totley All Saints, we aim to provide a caring environment where every child can thrive and is supported to achieve their unique & amazing potential as a child of God. In addition, we aim to serve our community and local church (All Saints, Totley) by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. We actively encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experiences that we offer to all of our pupils. We recognise that it is extremely important to provide varied experiences for our children in order that they can develop fully on a spiritual, moral, social & cultural level. We see the time set aside for Collective Worship as being a time for praise, togetherness as well as a sharing of knowledge, feelings and experiences. For us, Collective Worship is a special act and occasion in which we foster a sense of belonging to the school, to the wider community of Totley and to the society and world in which we live.

Legal Requirements:

Collective Worship is a legal requirement of schools under the 1944 Education Act, affirmed in subsequent legislation (1988 and 1996) & is the responsibility of the Executive Headteacher / Head of School as well as the governors to discharge this requirement. The Law states that:

- All pupils must attend every day unless withdrawn by their parents;
- It may take place at any time of day;
- It need not involve the whole school at once but can be for any existing group, e.g. classes or key stages;
- It must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief;
- It should be appropriate to the 'family backgrounds of pupils and to their age and aptitude'.

In 1994 a government circular was issued to clarify the law on Collective Worship. This is non-statutory advice, intended to help schools meet the legal requirements. It stated that there should be opportunities for pupils to:

- worship God;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;

- explore their own beliefs;
- encourage participation and response; promote community / shared values;
- reinforce positive attitudes.

The Purpose of Collective Worship:

At Totley All Saints, Collective Worship is an opportunity to come together to share, reflect and explore personal beliefs, issues of identity, and questions of meaning and purpose. Each half term a new theme is introduced and is explored in the acts of Collective Worship. In this way it makes an important contribution to promoting children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. It is also a vehicle for supporting inclusion as well as building community cohesion.

In accordance with the law and the ethos of our school, the majority of acts of Collective Worship reflect the 'broad traditions of Christian belief'. This does not restrict the focus exclusively to Christianity alone, but will sometimes include material from a range of spiritual, religious and secular contexts. Our aim is that no child be withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Pupils will be encouraged to explore ideas arising from the stimulus material presented by staff and visitors and invited to reflect on them, from their own perspectives. There is never any intention to impose religious ideas or beliefs on pupils but often the material can raise issues and questions that are relevant to their lives, irrespective of their background.

There will always be a time of quiet when pupils are invited to reflect on the focus of the assembly, with an invitation to those children for whom it is appropriate to make their thoughts into a personal prayer. Sometimes words of traditional prayers are used to support that reflection.

Through Collective Worship at Totley All Saints, our intentions are that:

- Children will take part in Collective Worship every day;
- The collective worship will include the singing of hymns, choruses and songs and opportunities are given, both to join in with and to listen to prayers;
- Time will also be provided for silence and reflection;
- Themes from our TASS Two Year Cycle of Assemblies will be used will be varied and will always have a moral imperative whether based on Biblical topics or relating to the cycle of the seasons, the wonders of the world, the deeds of human kind or the celebration of religious festivals;
- Themes will also relate to special days & celebrations plus the children's interests;
- The themes will be put forward in a variety of ways, e.g. through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, presentations, video clips & discussion;
- Whilst the majority of assemblies will be Christian based, there will sometimes be a focus or reference to other faiths;
- All members of staff are given the opportunity to lead Collective Worship;

- All children are given the opportunity to take a lead;
- Members of appropriate organisations are invited to share in Collective Worship.

Through the above, we intend that our children will:

- have the opportunity to worship & to develop a relationship with God if they wish to;
- Develop an understanding of Christian values, where these originate & what these can add to their own life & practice;
- develop respect and understanding of the self and of others;
- create a sense of belonging and connecting to the world;
- develop empathy and community with others;
- provide security within which pupils can share their values and beliefs;
- provide opportunities to question and reflect;
- promote discernment and support pupils in combating prejudice;
- encourage an appreciation of the intangible, e.g. beauty, truth, love, goodness as well as for mystery, paradox, and ambiguity.

The Pattern of Collective Worship:

At Totley All Saints, we conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful manner. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate manner. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Monday Whole School	Tuesday Whole School	Wednesday Whole School	Thursday Whole School	Friday Whole School
Themed Assembly – taken from the TASS 2 Year Cycle of Assemblies & including prayer & reflection.	Themed Assembly – taken from the TASS Two Year Cycle of Assemblies & including prayer & reflection or presented by the TASS CREW Council or a Visitor to the school.	Bible Assembly – Bible themed story & reading taken from the ‘Gospels in Schools’ booklet given by the Sheffield Diocese	Singing Assembly – Vibrant & active songs of praise & worship.	Celebration Assembly in which the TASS Declaration, TASS ‘Proud to Be’ List & Lord’s Prayer are recited.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

Monitoring of Collective Worship occurs both formally and informally. It occurs informally through pupil & staff discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors. In addition, it also takes place more formally via the work of the TASS CREW Council made up of pupils

from Y4 to Y6 who meet very regularly with the Executive Headteacher / Head of School or RE Subject Leader to discuss their views on RE & Collective Worship.

It is the role of governors to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. Governors liaise with the Executive Headteacher / Head of School before reporting back to the full Governing Body on Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Right of Withdrawal:

At Totley All Saints, we hope to provide Collective Worship that offers an inclusive opportunity to foster a sense of belonging for everyone associated with the school. For this reason, it is hoped all pupils will take part every day. However, if parents do not want their child to be included, they have the right to withdraw her or him from one or all acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to do so are asked to discuss their reasons with the Executive Headteacher / Head of School and to complete and sign a withdrawal form. No provision of alternative activities has been agreed.